

REMARKS

The claims are 1-5.

The present claims are directed to the subject matter of non-elected process claim 17.

This process can be performed sequentially i.e. by esterification followed by a separate step of reacting the free hydroxy groups in a resultant mixture of polyesters with an acrylating agent or by mixing all reactants for the esterification and reaction of the free hydroxy groups with the acrylating agent in a single vessel.

Claims 2 and 3 are directed to these embodiments.

These claims are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references of the parent application.

Further, Applicants discovered that an esterification/acrylation process where reactants are mixed together and reacted in situ in a single step/single vessel can provide blend polyester acrylates of superior properties compared to blends of such polymers made separately. The reason for this is not fully clear, but the process is moreover cheaper in terms of cost.

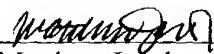
The Official Action in the parent, cites US 5,112,718 against the product claims 1 to 16 of the parent. This reference was said to disclose a compound whose definition corresponds to that of claim 1 of the parent. However, there is no disclosure or suggestion in US '718 on obtaining polyester acrylates blends in a single process such as the of claim 3.

US 4,983,712, cited against claim 17 in the International Search Report, discloses a typical two step process, with a first esterification step leading to a polyester containing hydroxyl group which is reacted in a second separate step with acrylic acid (see col. 3, lines 8-16). On the contrary, the instant process allows forming polyester acrylates blends in a single, continuous process.

Favorable action on the merits is now requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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